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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/402,563	10/05/1999	LEO K. VAN ROMUNDE	KOB10	6102

7590 02/26/2002

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EXAMINER

ROBINSON BOYCE, AKIBA K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2163

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

VB

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/402,563

Applicant(s)

VAN ROMUNDE, ET AL

Examiner

Akiba K Robinson-Boyce

Art Unit

2163

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 October 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because there are no reference numbers to define the various components to be discussed in relation to the specification. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The specification is objected to because there are no discussions in the specification in relation to the figures.
3. This application does not contain an abstract of the disclosure as required by 37 CFR 1.72(b). An abstract on a separate sheet is required.

Claim Objections

4. The claims are objected to because the lines are crowded too closely together, making reading and entry of amendments difficult. Substitute claims with lines one and one-half or double spaced on good quality paper are required. See 37 CFR 1.52(b).
5. Claims 4, 6-11, 14, 15, 17 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim *should refer to other claims in the alternative only--*, and/or, *--cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim*.

See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims can not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 4, 6-9, 11, 14, 15, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in that it fails to point out what is included or excluded by the claim language. This claim is an omnibus type claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by McIlroy, et al (US Patent 5,583,758).

As per claims 1, 12, McIlroy, et al discloses:

method for electronically storing.../computer system for electronically storing...(Figs 10-17, Col. 4, lines 50-60):

comprising a display...(Col. 4, line 54);

an input...(Col. 4, line 52);

a memory... (Col. 4, line 52);
a processing... (Col. 4, line 52);
at least one recorded catalogue of recommended actions... (abstract, lines 1-4);
hierarchised sequences of alternative actions... (abstract, line 12);
a list of recommended actions... (Col. 18, lines 61-62);
information-input requests... (Col. 18, lines 50-51);
in function of the hierarchised sequences of alternative actions... (Col. 3, lines 2-4);
in function of the past history... (Col. 6, line 64-Col. 7, line 6).

As per claims 2, 13, McIlroy, et al discloses:

the recorded catalogue(s) of recommended actions comprises/comprise
electronic selection algorithms in respect of the hierarchised sequences of alternative
actions... (Col. 3, line 2-4).

As per claim 3, 14, McIlroy, et al discloses:

the selection algorithms in respect of the hierarchised sequences of alternative
actions are integrated in electronic forms... (Figs 10-17).

As per claim 4, 15, McIlroy, et al discloses:

the process of the interrelated actions steered by the method involves a number
of sequential procedure steps and that for each subsequent step in the procedure the
method generates at least one process form and one evaluation form... (Col. 11, lines 5-18, Col. 5, lines 57-65).

As per claim 5, 16, McIlroy, et al discloses:

the evaluation form comprises information from the records relevant for any decision-request... (Col. 5, lines 56-65).

As per claim 6, McIlroy, et al discloses:

a record of information used/entered is stored... (Col. 4, lines 56-59).

As per claim 7, 17, McIlroy, et al discloses:

a record of the information and actions used/entered is stored in the memory unit of the purpose of measurement of the affectivity... (Col. 18, lines 16-20).

As per claim 8, McIlroy, et al discloses:

the method involves a supervising organization for the purpose of quality control... (Col. 18, lines 20-22).

As per claim 9, McIlroy, et al discloses:

the method allows for updating... (Col. 10, lines 14-15).

As per claim 10, McIlroy, et al discloses:

said supervising organization evaluates the effectivity...and updates the recorded catalogue... (Col. 3, lines 21-25).

As per claim 11, McIlroy, et al discloses:

the steering software is an application embodiment... (Col. 5, lines 43-46).


The following is inherent with McIlroy, et al because these types of applications are repeatedly used as steering solutions in the electronic document maintenance art. In addition, McIlroy already teaches the use of an application program as steering software as cited above. Limiting these applications to LOTUS NOTES and/or LOTUS DOMINO NOTES does not make the invention patentable.


Conclusion

10. An inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Akiba Robinson-Boyce whose telephone number is (703) 305-1340. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30 AM-3 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz, can be reached on (703) 305-9643. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-3988.

An inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.


ARB
January 15, 2002


KYLE J. CHOI
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 2163